

# Irish Gas Forum 2019

Decarbonising Ireland's gas network



Wednesday 23 October 2019  
Gibson Hotel, Dublin

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# Speaker panel

## Decarbonising Ireland's gas network

The Irish energy sector is undergoing a transition to a low carbon future. Although much of the focus to date has been on electricity there is now a need to move the policy debate towards the transition of Ireland's natural gas network to low carbon gas sources. There are an emerging number of elements to the decarbonisation of the natural gas infrastructure including biomethane injection, carbon capture and storage and power-to-gas hydrogen technologies. This transition will likely be accelerated by the next policy milestone that will be the EU's Gas Package which is currently being formulated and should be finalised by the new Commission in spring 2020. It is expected that the Package will include targets for the percentage of renewable gas in gas networks.

The objective of this conference is to look at the options for decarbonisation and how they might be applied in an Irish context.

### A panel of expert speakers will discuss:

- ✓ The **rationale for decarbonising** the gas network;
- ✓ **Economics** of decarbonising the heat and transport sectors;
- ✓ **UK plans** for its gas network;
- ✓ **Biomethane injection** into the gas network;
- ✓ The future **role of hydrogen**;
- ✓ The **potential for CCS** to achieve a zero-carbon gas network.



**Richard Bruton, TD**, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment was appointed in October 2018. He previously served as Minister of Education and Skills from May 2016 to October 2018 and as Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation from 2011-2016. Richard was first elected to Dáil Éireann for Dublin North Central in 1982. He has served a number of terms as a member of Dublin City Council.



**Daniel FitzPatrick** is Commercialisation Manager in Gas Networks Ireland and is focused on the delivery of natural gas and biogas as a cleaner and more affordable alternative fuel for the commercial and public transport market. Daniel has over 15 years' experience of developing innovative products and services in the gas, telecoms and space sectors.



**Jim Gannon** was appointed as a Commissioner at the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) in October 2019. His lead responsibilities in the CRU include Electricity and Operations. He was formally Chief Executive of Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and previous to that he was Director at RPS Group, leading the Energy, Environment and Health and Safety functions, with a core focus on the energy sector throughout his career.



**Muireann Lynch** is a Research Officer in the Economic Analysis division of the Economic and Social Research Institute. She holds a degree in Mathematics and Economics from TCD and a PhD from the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering in UCD. She has published research articles in diverse areas of energy economics and co-authored submissions to various public consultations and Government Departments.



**Samantha McCulloch** is the Head of the CCUS Unit at the International Energy Agency in Paris. Her team provides leading analysis and insights on the development and deployment of carbon capture, utilisation and storage technologies. She is a lead author of recent IEA publications including *2017 Energy Technology Perspectives*, *20 years of CCS: Accelerating future deployment*, and *5 keys to unlock CCS investment*. Prior to joining the IEA, Samantha spent five years as the Policy Director of the Australian Coal Association and also held various positions in the Australian Government, working on coal policy, energy market reform and energy security policy.



**Richard Murphy** is a Partner at Pinsent Masons and specialises in energy projects. His energy expertise and experience include advising clients on a range of regulatory, advisory and transactional matters. Richard is rated as a leading individual for energy work in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500.



**Denis O'Sullivan** is the Managing Director of Gas Networks Ireland. Previously Head of Commercial with the company, he had responsibility for managing, developing and delivering the business's commercial growth and innovation strategies with key focus on maximising the utilisation of the gas network and diversifying its use with gas in transport and renewable gas. Prior to this, he worked with Bord Gáis Energy and Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners as Head of Development with responsibility for delivering one of Ireland's largest wind energy portfolios.



**Russell Smyth** is a Partner in KPMG Ireland and leads the firm's corporate finance energy practice across the island of Ireland. He has over 15 years' experience in energy related corporate finance transactions, including significant experience of developing and fundraising both farm-scale and commercial-scale biogas plants, as well as wider energy generation assets.



**Karen Trant** is the Director of Networks and Legal at the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). She joined the CRU in 2006 and has been involved in the energy Safety and energy Networks Divisions both as a manager and then senior manager. She has responsibility for the regulation of the electricity and natural gas infrastructures in Ireland, including setting network development and connection policy, approving charges for access to and use of the networks and resolving connection disputes.

# Conference programme



0830 Registration and morning coffee

0900 Chair: J Owen Lewis, Chair, [IIEA Working Group on Climate](#)

Welcome and introduction: Cathal Marley, Interim CEO, [Ervia](#)

## MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

Richard Bruton, TD, [Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment](#)

### *Vision 2050: The future of the gas network in Ireland*

Denis O'Sullivan, Managing Director, [Gas Networks Ireland](#)

### *The critical role that CCS needs to play for 2050*

Samantha McCulloch, Head of CCUS Unit, [International Energy Agency](#)

### *Decarbonising Ireland's gas network and market*

Jim Gannon, Commissioner, [Commission for Regulation of Utilities](#)

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1045 Morning coffee / networking break

## 1100 Options for decarbonising the gas network

Chair: Dr Andrea Ahern, CCS Development Manager, [Ervia](#)

### *Future role of Hydrogen*

Dan Sadler, Low Carbon Solutions, [Equinor](#)

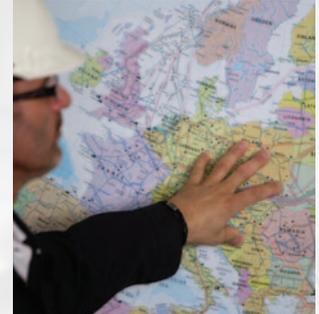
### *Legal and regulatory framework for gas to grid*

Garrett Monaghan, Head of Projects (Ireland), [Pinsent Masons](#)

### *Decarbonising domestic heating in Ireland*

Russell Smyth, Partner, [KPMG](#)

Questions & answers / Panel discussion



### Discussion Panel: The need to decarbonise Ireland's gas network



Jim Scheer  
Head of Low Carbon  
Technologies  
[SEAI](#)



Conor Minogue  
Senior Executive, Energy  
and Climate Policy  
[Ibec](#)



Muireann Lynch  
Research Officer  
[ESRI](#)



Derek O'Connor, Facilities  
Manager  
[Bausch + Lamb](#)



Cormac Nevin  
Head of Energy Engineering  
[Veolia Ireland](#)

1300 Networking lunch

## 1400 Decarbonising Ireland's gas network

Chair: J Owen Lewis, Chair, [IIEA Working Group on Climate](#)

### *Northern Lights – establishing a ship-based European solution for CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage*

Dr Per Sandberg, Senior advisor, Business Development, [Equinor](#)

### *Case study: Biomethane for anaerobic digestion*

Steven Scott, Sales Manager, UK and Ireland, [Puregas Solutions](#)

### *Decarbonising transport: CNG facilities and case study*

Dan FitzPatrick, Commercialisation Manager (CNG), [Gas Networks Ireland](#)

### *Carbon capture & storage feasibility study*

Brendan Murphy, Director Commercial & Regulation, [Ervia](#)

Questions & answers / Panel discussion



1545 Chairman's summary and conference close

